

REMARKS

In the foregoing amendments, claims 1, 4-7, 9-14, 19 and 20 were canceled. Of these claims, claims 1, 4-7, and 14 were rejected in the outstanding Office action and claims 9-13, 19, and 20 were previously withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. Claim 8 was rewritten as an independent claim. Accordingly, claims 2, 3, 8, and 15-18, which were either allowed or indicated as containing allowable subject matter in the outstanding Office action, are the application for consideration at this time.

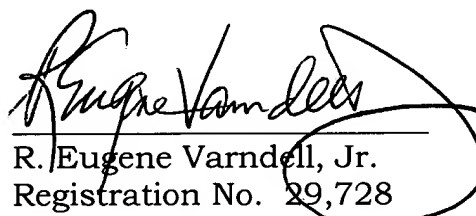
Applicant respectfully requests that the foregoing amendments be entered under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b) for the purposes of placing the application in condition for allowance. Firstly, the foregoing amendments cancel all the rejected claims. Secondly, the foregoing amendments cancel all the withdrawn claims. Finally, the foregoing amendments rewrite claim 8 as an independent claim, including all the limitations of claim from which depended. The outstanding Office action objected to claim 8 as being dependent on a base rejected claim, but stated that this claim would be allowable, if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The foregoing amendments to claim 8 do this, and therefore a formal allowance of claim 8 is respectfully requested. Since the foregoing amendments to applicant's claims only present allowable or allowed claims, applicant respectfully requests that the examiner enter the foregoing

amendments under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b) for the purposes of placing the application in condition for allowance or for the purposes of appeal.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable consideration and a formal allowance of claims 2, 3, 8, and 15-18 are respectfully requested. While it is believed that the present response places the application in condition for allowance, should the examiner have any comments or questions, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned be telephoned at the below listed number to resolved any outstanding issues.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fee therefor, as well as any other fees which may become due, may be charged to our deposit account No. 22-0256.

Respectfully submitted,
VARNDELL & VARNDELL, PLLC
(formerly Varndell Legal Group)



R. Eugene Varndell, Jr.
Registration No. 29,728

Atty. Case No. VX012307
106-A South Columbus Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 683-9730

V:\VDOCS\W_DOCS\JAN04\PO60-2307 RSAF.DOC